UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26546
7 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FURTHER REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 7 OF RESOLUTION 840 (1993)

1. It will be recalled that, in my report of 26 August 1993 (S/26360), I indicated my belief that, when the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has been concluded, the correct course, in accordance with previous practice in such cases, was to terminate the United Nations military presence and concentrate the resources available on civilian activities in support of peace-building in the new Cambodia. I added, however, that, if the new Government were to request a post-UNTAC military presence, with a clear indication of the tasks it would be expected to perform, I would of course give careful consideration to such a request and submit a report to the Security Council on the feasibility of the tasks proposed and the resources that would be required to carry them out.

2. I have received a letter dated 26 September 1993, jointly signed by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister, and His Excellency Mr. Hun Sen, Second Prime Minister, of the Royal Government of Cambodia. In it the Prime Ministers, inter alia, referring to the tensions that will still remain in Cambodia, especially in the provinces, after the end of UNTAC's mandate, and to the need to build confidence among the Cambodian people, requested me to consider the possibility of dispatching some 20 to 30 unarmed United Nations military observers to Cambodia for a period of six months following the end of UNTAC's mandate. The letter has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

3. It remains my belief, as stated in my report of 26 August 1993, that the efforts and resources of the United Nations in support of Cambodia should, henceforward, be concentrated on civilian activities in the fields of reconstruction and development, as well as human rights and mine clearance. Nevertheless, the request formally submitted by the two Prime Ministers of Cambodia, for which His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk has also expressed support, must receive serious consideration. As the Prime Ministers point out, problems of security still remain in Cambodia. On 4 October 1993, they reiterated to me their conviction that the presence of a limited number of unarmed United Nations military officers, for a strictly limited period, would strengthen confidence among the people and thus enhance the stability of Cambodia and its new Government at this crucial time.

4. I am not fully convinced that a small group of military officers based in Phnom Penh would in practice be able to play an effective part in controlling or resolving the remaining security problems in Cambodia. There must also be doubt about deploying a merely symbolic military presence at a time of acute financial crisis. But if the Security Council decides to respond positively to the strongly expressed request by the two Prime Ministers for this gesture of support from the United Nations, I recommend that it authorize the establishment in Phnom Penh of a team of 20 military liaison officers, contributed by Governments, for a single period of six months. These liaison officers would be separate from the integrated office which I propose to establish in Cambodia (see S/26090, para. 39) and their team leader would report directly to and receive instructions from me. Their mandate would be limited to maintaining liaison with the Royal Government of Cambodia and reporting to me on matters affecting security in Cambodia.

5. Should the Security Council concur with the recommendation outlined above, I shall submit at an early date a more detailed plan of deployment and an estimate of the resources required.